

The Trojan Horse, By: Joshua D.

The Trojan Horse was an instrument of war used by the Greeks to gain access to the city of Troy.

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The epics written about the war are said to contain both factual, and fictional information. This applies to all of the epics written and myths created.

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Paris was the son of Priam, who was the king of Troy. ... At this time Helen of Troy was the most beautiful woman in the world, but she was married to King Menelaus of Sparta. Aphrodite put a spell on Helen so that she would go with Paris. Paris would have the Queen of Troy to himself, and Aphrodite's obligation to give the most beautiful woman would be fulfilled.

When Paris came to visit, Helen left with him to return to Troy.

Enraged, the Greek king launched a fleet of one thousand ships to go to Troy and retrieve Helen. Helen's was "the face that launched a thousand ships."

Many main characters of the Greek epics and myths were involved in the siege of Troy. Achilles and Odysseus were only a couple.

For ten years the Greeks had lain siege to the city of Troy without success of getting into the city, or with getting Helen back. The layout and build of the city walls made the ancient metropolis impenetrable. After Achilles left the war, the Greeks' progress slowed to almost a dead stop. Troy was not going to be taken by sheer numbers.

The Trojans, led by Hector, began to repel the Greeks. Eventually the Greeks were driven back to their own ships. Achilles rejoined the battle, and killed Hector to avenge a good friend's death. Greek morale shot through the roof!

The Greeks needed a war machine. The siege machines of the time weren't getting the Greeks anywhere. They needed something new. So the Greeks devised a plan and put it to work.

The Greeks built a giant, wooden horse with a hollow belly. A handful of armed Greeks climbed into the hollow opening, and sealed it up. Meanwhile, the rest of the Greek army piled into their ships and sailed away. Due to a convincing Greek spy, the Trojans came out of Troy to receive the huge horse as an offering of peace. The Trojans rejoiced at the thought of the Greek army running away like dogs!

The Trojans then decided to celebrate. By nightfall the whole city was in a drunken uproar. They celebrated far into the night. In the small hours of the morning, while everyone was drunk or

asleep, the Greeks unsealed the belly of the horse, and climbed down from it. Silently, they killed the Trojan sentries at all the city gates. The gates were then opened to the bulk of the Greek army. In their drunkenness, the Trojans did not see the Greek fleet return to their shores.

Now, the Greeks were finally inside the city after ten years of useless battle. The Greeks finally had their chance at capturing victory. They slaughtered men and boys alike. The women, and girls were kept and later sold as slaves. By daylight, everyone in Troy was either dead, or in bondage.

Sources:

1996 Microsoft Encarta

World Book Encyclopedia, Vol. "T"

"The Trojan War" by Gail Stewart